

## International 4-H Youth Exchange

Since 1948, Montana has sent hundreds of young adults to all parts of the world for 3-6 month exchanges. The 4-H programs are distinctive because participants stay with a series of host families. They live with and work alongside their host parents and siblings to ready chickens for market or harvest barley. In addition to studying farming and ranching practices in other countries, participants learn the foreign culture by experiencing it.

The International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) is one of the opportunities available to 19-30 year old former 4-H members. Delegates have visited castles in Austria, saunas in Finland and gardens in Japan to name a few. They have climbed mountains, gone pheasant hunting and sold honey at market. And, they have made lifelong friends.

The IFYE program begins in mid-June, with a national orientation, and continues for six weeks, three or six months. Applicants who are accepted into the program receive financial assistance from the Montana 4-H Foundation and the IFYE Endowment. After returning home, participants get to share their experiences by presenting to schools, clubs and other community organizations throughout Montana.

For younger 4-H members (12-19), there are exchanges to Japan, Australia, Costa Rica, Norway and Finland. Participating youth are immersed in other cultures for one summer month. Chaperones accompany the youth to their destination country and then split off to their respective host families, reuniting as a group prior to their return to America. This unique exchange gives kids an in-depth understanding of other cultures, something that most tourists never experience. Travel dates vary by program and some financial assistance is available.

If the chickens in your own backyard are keeping you busy, but you want to know more about castles, consider hosting a foreign youth next summer. Every year, Montana 4-H families open their homes and hearts to host 25-40 youth from countries all over the world.

For more information contact your county extension agent or Stephanie Davison at the 4-H Center for Youth Development at (406) 994-3502 or email: [sdavison@montana.edu](mailto:sdavison@montana.edu)

## 6th Annual Montana Farm Bureau Foundation Youth Speech Contest

The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation is hosting their 6th Annual Youth Speech Contest in conjunction with the Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting on November 9th at 3:00 p.m. in Billings, MT at the Crowne Plaza hotel. With \$1500 worth of prize money up for grabs and great experience in public speaking, this is a great event for youth to participate in!!! This year's topic is "The Effect of Brucellosis on Montana Agriculture". The registration form and copy of your speech is due November 3rd. Forms can be found at [www.mfbf.org](http://www.mfbf.org) or if you have any questions call Nicole Griffin at 406-951-2429.

## Shooting Sports Training

The next scheduled Statewide 4-H Shooting Sports Training will be held in Kalispell on December 5-6, 2008. The Friday night session will be held at the Fairgrounds in Kalispell and Saturday's discipline workshops will be held at local shooting facilities. We will try to offer all disciplines, but please understand that extreme cold weather could cause us to rethink a few of the outside disciplines such as shotgun, cowboy action, and muzzle loader. We will make any cancellation decisions a few days before the training. The Friday Night lecture and discussion will begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m. We will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and split into disciplines at various locations. Training will end between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. All the training materials and Saturday's lunch will be provided to the participants as part of the \$50 registration fee. Contact the Extension Office for registration materials. Registration deadline is November 21.